



## CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

November 13, 2003

### **H.R. 421** **Environmental Policy and Conflict Resolution Advancement** **Act of 2003**

*As ordered reported by the House Committee on Resources on October 29, 2003*

#### **SUMMARY**

H.R. 421 would reauthorize the Environmental Dispute Resolution Fund. The bill would authorize the appropriation of \$4 million annually over the 2004-2008 period to that fund, which finances the operations of the Morris K. Udall Scholarship and Excellence in National Environmental Policy Foundation. Of the authorized amounts, \$3 million would be used for foundation operations; the remaining \$1 million would be reserved for grants to nonfederal entities involved in environmental disputes with federal agencies.

Assuming appropriation of the authorized amounts, CBO estimates that implementing H.R. 421 would cost \$18 million over the 2004-2008 period. Enacting this legislation would not affect revenues or direct spending.

H.R. 421 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (UMRA) and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments.

#### **ESTIMATED COST TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT**

The estimated budgetary impact of H.R. 421 is shown in the following table. The costs of this legislation fall within budget function 300 (natural resources and environment).

	By Fiscal Year, in Millions of Dollars					
	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
<b>SPENDING SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATION</b>						
Spending Under Current Law						
Budget Authority <sup>a</sup>	1	0	0	0	0	0
Estimated Outlays	1	0	0	0	0	0
Proposed Changes						
Authorization Level	0	4	4	4	4	4
Estimated Outlays	0	2	4	4	4	4
Spending Under H.R. 421						
Authorization Level <sup>a</sup>	1	4	4	4	4	4
Estimated Outlays	1	2	4	4	4	4

a. The 2003 level is the amount appropriated for that year for the Environmental Dispute Resolution Fund. A full-year appropriation for 2004 has not yet been provided.

For this estimate, CBO assumes that the amounts authorized by H.R. 421 will be appropriated for each fiscal year. Outlay estimates are based on information provided by the U.S. Institute for Environmental Dispute Resolution and on historical spending patterns for this program.

## INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND PRIVATE-SECTOR IMPACT

H.R. 421 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in UMRA and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments. The bill would benefit these governments by authorizing grants to support their use of conflict resolution services.

## PREVIOUS CBO ESTIMATE

On April 21, 2003, CBO transmitted a cost estimate for S. 163, the Environmental Policy and Conflict Resolution Advancement Act of 2003, as ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works on April 9, 2003. The two versions of the legislation are identical, as are the estimated costs.

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